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1. ~~Mr Muston~~
2. ~~Mr Morley~~ Parry
3. ~~Mr Perry~~

B.415  
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CITY OF ST. ALBANS



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

CARL BURNS, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H., D.P.H.

AND

**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

R. E. C. GODDARD, F.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.

FOR THE YEAR

1969

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CITY OF ST. ALBANS  
ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT  
HARPENDEN URBAN DISTRICT  
ELSTREE RURAL DISTRICT

With the Compliments  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
BLEAK HOUSE  
CATHERINE STREET  
ST. ALBANS

Telephone:  
ST. ALBANS 59211



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S T. A L B A N S C I T Y

HEALTH AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE

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Alderman Dr. E. Toms, M.A.  
Councillor Mrs. D. Almond  
Councillor C.J. Bayley  
Councillor E.H. Hodges  
Councillor J.A. Parry, M.B.E.  
Councillor D. Ripley  
Councillor H.C.B. Sampson  
Councillor W.J.P. Wilkie (Vice Chairman)  
Councillor P.A. Wincott

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

C. Burns, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health

P.B.M. O'Reilly, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
Deputy Medical Officer of Health

R.E.C. Goddard, F.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.  
Chief Public Health Inspector

L.A. Croft, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.  
Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

F.W.P. Harmsworth, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.,  
H. Sumner, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.  
Public Health Inspectors

J.D. Buxton  
Student Public Health Inspector

J.D. Curzon, B.Sc., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.  
Public Analyst

Miss R. Pope (Resigned February)  
Miss D.M. Lack (Appointed March)  
Secretary

Miss K.D. Freeman (Appointed March)  
Clerk

R.H. Fox  
Public Health Assistant





REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Divisional Health Office,  
Bleak House,  
Catherine Street,  
St. Albans.

St. Albans: 59211

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the City of St. Albans.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of the City of St. Albans for 1969.

I am happy as in previous years to be able to report that the general health of the area remains good. The crude death rate fell slightly from 11.2 in 1968 to 10.6 per 1,000 of the estimated population in 1969. The comparable death rate which is corrected to allow for the population structure of the area as compared with the rest of the country was 11.0 compared with the rate for the whole of England and Wales of 11.9. As in previous years the major causes of death were the degenerative and the malignant diseases particularly cardiovascular disease which was the largest single cause of death. As stated in previous reports, avoidance of overweight, shunning cigarettes, together with regular exercise are simple measures within everyone's power to adopt, and would dramatically reduce the annual toll from these diseases.

The benefit of the measles vaccination campaign referred to in the introductory letter to my last report and which took place in the summer of 1968 was reaped in 1969. Measles epidemics have in the past occurred in a biennial cycle and 1969 would have been an epidemic year during which, in the City of St. Albans, based on past experience one would have expected between seven hundred and one thousand cases to be notified. In the event a mere 48 notifications were received. At the time of writing a further approach is being made to parents in the hope that those who have not already had their children immunised will do so, unless of course, the child has already had measles. It is hoped that, as has already occurred with diphtheria and polio, a sufficiently high proportion of children will be immunised virtually to eliminate the disease from the community.

As in previous years, my thanks are due to the many people, both within the Public Health Department and in other agencies, without whose co-operation the work of the Department would have been impossible. It is worth referring in this connection to the fact that, in addition to being the City Council's Medical Officer of Health I am also, as the County Council's Divisional Medical

Officer for the St. Albans Division, responsible for the day to day administration locally of the County's Health and Welfare Services. This has considerable advantages in that many problems, which concern for example the housing department, or the public health inspectorate are also well known to the County Council's nursing, health visiting or social work services and my dual role enables me to act as co-ordinator of the various services involved. For this purpose, case conferences are held each quarter, at which representatives of the various departments concerned meet under my chairmanship to discuss common problems and co-ordinate a common approach to them.

Finally I should like to express my gratitude to you Mr. Mayor, and Ladies and Gentlemen for the interest you have taken in the work of the Department throughout the year and for all the help and consideration you have given to myself and my staff.

Your obedient servant.

CARL BURNS,

Medical Officer of Health



Section ASTATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population	52,680
Area (in acres)	5,129
Number of Inhabited houses on the Rate Books	
Dwelling Houses	16,590
Shops with living accommodation	246
Licensed Premises with living accommodation	70
	<hr/>
	16,906
	<hr/>
Rateable Value	£3,398,863

Vital Statistics

Live Births -	
Number	853
Rate per 1,000 population	16.2
Illegitimate Live Births -	
Number	70
Rate % of total Live births	8.0
Stillbirths -	
Number	12
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	14.0
Total Live and Stillbirths	865
Infant Deaths (deaths under one year) -	
Number	14
Rate per 1,000 live births	16.0
Infant Mortality Rate -	
Total Infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	16.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	17.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	14.0
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate -	
Number	10
Rate per 1,000 total live births	12.0
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate -	
Number	9
Rate per 1,000 total live births	11.0
Peri-Natal Mortality Rate -	
Number (stillbirths and deaths under one week)	21
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	24.0

# Maternal Mortality (including Abortion)

NIL

## Deaths

Number of Deaths

557

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population

10.6

In order to make comparisons between the rates in different areas and the country as a whole, the Registrar General has supplied "Comparability Factors" to be applied to these two rates so that comparisons can be made. Applying these two factors to the crude rates gives the following results:

<u>Crude Birth Rate</u>	<u>Comparable Birth Rate</u>	<u>Crude Death Rate</u>	<u>Comparable Death Rate</u>
16.2	16.0	10.6	11.0

## Death, Birth, Infant Mortality, Stillbirth and Peri-Natal Mortality Rates

<u>Year</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Infant Mortality Rate</u>	<u>Stillbirth Rate</u>	<u>Peri-Natal Mortality Rates</u>
1947	12.6	17.9	33.0		
1948	10.2	17.2	19.2		
1949	11.5	18.2	13.1		
1950	11.3	16.3	33.3		
1951	12.0	16.4	27.6		
1952	10.6	16.5	27.1		
1953	11.5	15.6	29.9		
1954	10.8	15.4	18.5		
1955	10.3	15.9	15.2		
1956	11.0	16.3	15.8		
1957	10.9	15.5	15.0		
1958	10.5	16.9	22.3		
1959	11.5	17.6	16.3		
1960	10.8	19.3	13.7		
1961	11.6	16.5	8.5	24.9	30.8
1962	10.8	18.4	15.1	19.1	29.7
1963	11.7	18.9	18.9	13.5	24.8
1964	10.2	17.4	16.7	20.7	27.3
1965	11.3	19.3	12.9	12.8	20.6
1966	10.3	17.5	15.3	8.6	17.3
1967	10.3	16.8	24.0	16.0	26.0
1968	11.2	15.2	12.5	11.2	19.8
1969	10.6	16.2	16.0	14.0	24.0



## Causes of Death

(N.B. A new system of classification has been introduced by the Registrar General and is used this year for the second time so that these statistics are not directly comparable with those for previous years.)

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Other Tuberculosis including late effects	1	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	2	-
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	6	4
Malignant Neoplasm - Intestine	7	14
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	28	6
Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	-	11
Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus	-	3
Malignant Neoplasm - Prostate	3	-
Leukaemia	-	2
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	11	13
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	2	1
Diabetes Mellitus	5	5
Avitaminoses	-	1
Other Endocrine etc, Diseases	1	-
Anaemias	1	4
Meningitis	-	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	4	7
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	4	2
Hypertensive Disease	6	6
Ischaemic Heart Disease	67	50
Other Forms of Heart Disease	8	15
Cerebrovascular Disease	29	54
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	15	15
Influenza	3	2
Pneumonia	24	19
Bronchitis and Emphysema	17	13
Asthma	1	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	5
Peptic Ulcer	2	2
Appendicitis	-	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	-
Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	5
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	-
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	4	4
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	-	1
Congenital Anomalies	-	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	7	-
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	2	-
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	1	-
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1
All Other Accidents	5	8
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	3	2

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Totals 278 279

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# Vital Statistics, 1969 - England and Wales

Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns of Registrar General

## Births

Live Births (per 1,000 total population)	16.3
Stillbirths (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	13.0

## Deaths

All Causes (per 1,000 total population)	11.9
Infants under 1 year (per 1,000 related live births)	18.0
Maternal Mortality (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	0.2
Neo-Natal Death Rate (per 1,000 related live births)	12.0
Peri-Natal Mortality (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	23.0

This table is included to enable comparison to be made between local rates and national rates, but in dealing with the relatively low numbers from which local rates are calculated, one must be very cautious about drawing conclusions.

## Number of Deaths and Death Rates from Tuberculosis and Cancer, 1969

The provisional number of deaths and death rates per million population for England and Wales during the year 1969 are as follows:-

	<u>Number</u>			<u>Rate</u>		
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Persons</u>
Respiratory Tuberculosis	841	251	1,092	35	10	22
Other Tuberculosis	484	264	748	20	11	15
Cancer of Lung and Bronchus	24,689	5,074	29,763	1,039	202	610
Other Cancer	37,295	47,669	84,964	1,570	1,901	1,740



## COMMENTARY ON VITAL STATISTICS - ST. ALBANS CITY

There was an increase in the birth rate in 1969, from 15.2 in 1968 to 16.2 per thousand of the estimated population - an increase in the number of births of 56. The national birth rate of 16.3 can be compared with our comparable birth rate of 16.0

There was an increase in the number of illegitimate births in the City from 58 in 1968 to 70 in 1969, representing 8% of the live births. Behind these simple figures lie a number of human problems with which the staff of the Health Department and the social workers of the Children's Department and various voluntary agencies have to do a great deal of work. The number of stillbirths rose from 9 in 1968 to 12 in 1969, resulting in an increase in the stillbirth rate from 11.2 to 14.0. The stillbirth rate for England and Wales was 13.0

The number of infant deaths under one year of age rose from 10 in 1968 to 14 in 1969. This gave an infant mortality rate of 16.0 compared with 12.5 of the year before (England and Wales infant mortality rate was 18.0 the lowest national figure ever recorded). Of these fourteen deaths, eight had prematurity as the major, or a contributory cause, and 10 died before they were a month old, compared with 8 in 1968. This gave a neo-natal mortality rate of 12.0, compared with a neo-natal mortality rate of 10.0 in 1968. Of the 10 children who died in the first month of life, 9 of them died during the first week of life, this gave an early neo-natal mortality rate of 11.0 in 1969, compared with 8.8 in 1968. If, however, we consider the peri-natal mortality rate, which is an overall figure considering stillbirths and deaths under one week, (this, therefore, includes nearly all deaths associated with diseases or disorders of pregnancy and childbirth). 21 children died giving a rate per 1,000 total of live and stillbirths of 24.0 compared with 19.85 in 1968. It should be noted that the fluctuations in these various figures are of very limited significance, if any, since the initial numbers are so small that very small differences are apt to give big alterations in percentages and rates per thousand.

### DEATHS

557 people of all ages died in the City during 1969, giving a crude death rate of 10.6, and a standardised death rate of 11.0. This is to be compared with a crude death rate of 11.2 in 1968. Degenerative disease of the heart and arteries was the commonest cause of death, accounting for more than half the total number of deaths during the year.

### Cancers

108 people (55 males and 53 females) died of cancers in 1969.

Lung cancer which was again the most common of the cancers, with 34 deaths showed a decrease of 5 on the 1968 figures. Despite fluctuations in the local figures the national figure has risen inexorably year by year. Between 1956 and 1968 the annual number of deaths from this cause rose from 18,185 to 28,826, which is a rise from 3.5% to almost 5% of the total number of deaths. The habit of cigarette smoking is responsible for the vast majority of these deaths as well as contributing in large measure to the increasing mortality from ischaemic heart disease.



Section B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Welfare Centres and Clinics

Bricket Wood - St. Luke's Church Hall

Infant Welfare

2nd and 4th Tuesdays - 2-4 p.m.  
(Dr. Attends)

Vaccination & Immunisation

3rd Wednesdays - 9.30-11.30 a.m.

Colney Heath - The Pavilion

Infant Welfare

1st and 3rd Tuesdays - 2.30-4 p.m.  
(Dr. Attends)

Harpenden - 40 Luton Road  
(Tel: Harpenden 2040)

Ophthalmic

Vaccination & Immunisation

Mondays - 9.30-11.30 a.m. (By appointment)  
2nd and 4th Wednesday in month - 9.30 -  
(Dr. Attends) 12 noon.

Speech Therapy

Thursday - 9.30-12 noon; 2-4 p.m.  
(By Appointment)

Infant Welfare

Wednesdays - 1.45-4.30 p.m.  
(Dr. Attends)

Dental

Tuesdays ) 9.30 - 12 noon  
Wednesdays ) 2-4 p.m.  
Fridays )  
(By Appointment)

Cytology Clinic

Thursdays - 9.30-11.30 a.m.  
(By Appointment)

Harpenden - Batford J.M.I. School,  
Pickford Hill.

Infant Welfare

2nd and 4th Thursdays - 1.45-4.30 p.m.  
(Dr. Attends)

Speech Therapy

Tuesdays - 2-4 p.m.

Harpenden - Health Annexe,  
Grove Road.

Infant Welfare

Fridays - 2-4.30 p.m.  
(Dr. Attends 2nd and 4th)

London Colney - Community Centre,  
Caledon Road.

Vaccination & Immunisation

Fridays - 9.30-12 noon  
(Dr. Attends)

Infant Welfare

Thursdays - 1.45-4.30 p.m.  
(Dr. Attends 1st and 3rd)

Redbourn - Congregational Hall

Infant Welfare

2nd and 4th Tuesdays - 2.30-4.30 p.m.

St. Albans - Village Hall, Park Street.

Infant Welfare

Mondays - 1.30-4 p.m.

(Dr. Attends 2nd and 4th)

Vaccination & Immunisation

1st Monday - 2-4 p.m.

St. Albans - Mandeville Health Centre,  
Mandeville Drive,  
Tel: St. Albans 50471

Infant Welfare

1st and 3rd Thursdays - 2-4 p.m.

(Dr. Attends)

Dental

Tuesdays ) 9.30-12 noon

Wednesdays ) 2-4 p.m.

(By Appointment)

Immunisation & Vaccination

4th Thursday - 2-4 p.m.

Speech Therapy

Fridays - 2-4 p.m.

St. Albans - Margaret Wix Health Centre,  
High Oaks.  
Tel: St. Albans 56994

Infant Welfare

Wednesdays - 1.30-4 p.m.

(Dr. Attends 2nd and 4th)

Speech Therapy

Tuesdays - 2-4 p.m.

Dental

Mondays )

Thursdays ) a.m. and p.m.

(By Appointment)

St. Albans - Principal Health Centre,  
Civic Centre,  
Tel: St. Albans 59211.

Immunisation & Vaccination

Mondays - 9-12 noon

(Dr. Attends 9.30 a.m.)

Dental

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
& Friday - 9.30-12.30 p.m. : 2-5 p.m.

Saturdays - 9.30-12 noon (alternate)

Orthoptic

Monday - 9-12 noon : 2-4.30 p.m.

Wednesday - 9-12 noon : 2-4.30 p.m.

Thursday - 9.30-12 noon : 2-4.30 p.m.

Friday - 9-12 noon : 2-4.30 p.m.

(By Appointment)

Ophthalmic

Monday and Tuesday - 9.30-12.30 p.m.

(By Appointment)

St. Albans - Principal Health Centre (continued)

Speech	Tuesday - 9.30-12 noon : 1.30-4.30 p.m. Thursday - 1.30-4.30 p.m. (By Appointment)
Ante-Natal Infant Welfare	Wednesday - 2-4 p.m. Tuesday & Friday - 1.30-4 p.m. (Dr. attends Friday & 2nd & 4th Tues. Foods issued Tuesday and Friday)
Audiometrician	2nd & 4th Tuesdays - 2-4.30 p.m. Fridays - 2-4.30 p.m. (By Appointment)
Audiology	2nd & 4th Wednesdays - 9.30-12 noon 2-4 p.m. (By Appointment)
Cytology	Mondays - 6.30-9 p.m. ) By Fridays - 9.30-12 noon ) Appointment

St. Albans - Cunningham Hill Health Centre,  
Cell Barnes Lane.  
Tel: St. Albans 53025

Infant Welfare	Mondays - 2-4.30 p.m. (Dr. Attends)
Immunisation & Vaccination	1st & 3rd Thursdays - 9.30-12 noon (By Appointment)
Speech	Fridays - 9.30-12 noon (By Appointment)

St. Albans - Skyswood Health Centre,  
Marshalswick Estate.  
Tel: St. Albans 57041

Infant Welfare	Monday & Friday - 2-4.30 p.m. (Dr. Attends)
Immunisation & Vaccination	1st & 3rd Tuesday - 2-4 p.m. (By Appointment)
Speech	Thursday - 2-4 p.m. (By Appointment)
Ante-Natal	Thursdays - 2-4 p.m.
Dental	Mondays - 10-12 noon : 2-4 p.m. Tuesdays - 2-4 p.m. Wednesdays - 10-12 noon Thursdays - 10-12 noon (By Appointment)



St. Albans City Hospital, Normandy Road Wing  
Telephone: St. Albans 52211.

V.D. (Women)  
V.D. (Men)  
Post-Natal  
Chest Clinic

Thursdays - 1.30-3 p.m.  
Tuesdays - 4-6 p.m.  
Wednesdays - 11 a.m.  
Mondays - 9 a.m. (By Appointment)  
Wednesdays - 9 a.m. (By Appointment)  
Thursdays - 9 a.m. (By Appointment)

Sandridge - Parish Hall

Infant Weighing

2nd & 4th Wednesdays - 2.30-3.30 p.m.

Shenley - Village Hall

Infant Welfare

1st & 3rd Wednesdays - 2-4 p.m.  
(Dr. Attends)

Wheathampstead - Mead Hall, East Lane

Infant Welfare

2nd & 4th Fridays - 2.30-4 p.m.  
(Dr. Attends 3.00 p.m.)

Some of the County Council premises are also used by other organisations principally the Family Planning Association who hold sessions at St. Albans, Boreham Wood and Harpenden, and the Blood Transfusion Service who hold Donor Sessions at St. Albans Principal Health Centre and Skyswood Health Centre.

### Hospitals

I am indebted to Mr. K.S. Robson, Group Secretary, Mid-Herts. Group Hospital Management Committee, for the following information relating to Hill End, High Wick, and St. Albans City Hospitals.

#### HILL END HOSPITAL

No. of Beds	754	Psychiatric
No. of Discharges	1,150	

#### Out-Patients

No. of New Patients	156
No. of Attendances	2,091

#### Day-Patients

No. of New Patients	118
No. of Attendances	9,049

X-Ray Department

3,521 Units

Physiotherapy Department

3,791 Attendances

#### HIGH WICK

Regional Unit for Psychotic and Maladjusted Children

Beds	18
Discharges	7

ST. ALBANS CITY HOSPITAL

	Beds Allocated	In-Patient Discharges	Out-Patients	
			New	Total Attendances
General Medicine	68	1,403	772	4,370
Paediatrics	20	450	359	2,266
Infectious Diseases	9	63		
Diseases of the Chest	6		928	4,227
Dermatology		1	555	1,710
Neurology			67	213
Physical Medicine			368	2,969
V.D.			328	1,093
Geriatrics	84	157		
General Surgery	66	2,015	1,644	4,270
E.N.T. (T. & A.) )	8	228	) 1,335	2,825
E.N.T. (Other) )		209		
Trau. and Orth. Surgery	44	1,326	1,558	4,748
Ophthalmology	6	286	777	3,289
Radiotherapy			59	571
Thoracic Surgery			7	71
Dentistry		28	669	2,641
Neurosurgery			13	27
Gynaecology	24	873	846	2,178
Obstetrics - Ante-Natal )	35	758	792	6,286
- Post-Natal )			481	481
Special Care Baby Unit	7	26		
Mental Illness			261	1,055
Allergy			230	230
Private Section 1	4	105		
" " 4	6			
Totals	387	7,928	12,049	45,520
Accident & Emergency			13,593	24,764

Maternity:

Live Births  
Still Births

666  
8

X-Ray Department:

61,812 Units

Physiotherapy Department:

60,340 Attendances



Section C.PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	21
Whooping Cough	3
Measles	48
Food Poisoning	14
Infective Hepatitis	6
Dysentery	27

Food Poisoning

Fourteen cases of food poisoning were reported in the City during 1969. There were two small outbreaks involving a total of 6 patients and the other 8 were sporadic cases. Salmonella infections were found to be responsible for 13 of the 14 cases, and in the other the cause of the infection was not traced.

TUBERCULOSIS

During 1969 the following new cases of tuberculosis were notified in the St. Albans City.

Age Group	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	1	1	-	-	1	1
15 - 24 years	1	-	-	-	1	-
25 - 44 years	1	2	-	-	1	2
45 - 64 years	4	-	-	-	4	-
65 years and over	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	7	3	-	-	7	3

During the year there was 1 respiratory (female) case transferred into the Area, 35 cases were removed from the register.

The state of the tuberculosis register at the 31st December, 1969, was as follows:-

<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Total</u>
<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
168	97	20	22	307



REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Public Health Department,  
36 St. Peter's Street,  
St. Albans.

June 1970

To: The Right Worshipful the Mayor,  
Alderman and Councillors of the City of St. Albans.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my thirty-first Annual Report on the work of my Department carried out during 1969.

Throughout the year continued progress in the standard of hygiene has been maintained at food premises throughout the City.

Following a series of lectures organised by Mr. L.A. Croft in conjunction with the St. Albans College of Further Education, ten students from among food handlers were successful in obtaining the certificate of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene. During the five years this course has been conducted a useful nucleus has been built up of people working in the food and catering industries who have a good knowledge of the importance of food hygiene.

One problem which arose during the year was the "invasion" in April and May of a number of itinerant caravan dwellers who encamped on a field, owned by the Ministry of Transport, adjoining the A 405 at Park Street Roundabout. This was followed in October by another invasion of a plot of land, owned by the Hertfordshire County Council, at Cotlandswick.

At one period, these two sites were occupied by thirty five caravans and in addition several caravans were parked for varying periods of time on the verges adjoining the A 405.

Although the numbers were slightly reduced at a later stage considerable difficulties were encountered in respect to refuse collection, absence of toilet facilities, etc., particularly in view of adverse weather.





Much has since been done to improve conditions on these sites but until properly constructed authorised sites with adequate control are provided by local authorities, this problem will remain.

The vacancy on the staff caused by the resignation of one of our Public Health Inspectors was unfortunately not filled during the year, and since then another Inspector has also resigned. It is hoped, however, that the full establishment will be made up in the near future.

I wish to express my thanks to all members of the staff for their loyal co-operation; to Mr. J.D. Curzon the Public Analyst for his advice and assistance, and to the Chairman and Members of the Health and Protection Committee for the support received throughout the year.

I am,  
your obedient Servant,

R. E. C. GODDARD

Chief Public Health Inspector



## INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a summary of visits made during the year:-

Public Health Acts	
Houses, Primary Inspections	73
Revisits	384
Moveable dwellings	82
Infectious Diseases	293
Swimming Pools	29
Rivers, Streams & Ditches	14
Drainage	123
Dirty & Verminous Premises	27
Dilapidated Premises	37
Sundry Nuisances	56
Clean Air Act	
Smoke Observations	63
Boilerhouses	5
Smoke Nuisances	76
Pollution Measurements	414
Housing Acts	
Houses, Primary Inspections	97
Revisits	239
Overcrowding	5
Houses in Multiple Occupation	103
Factories Act	
Factories with Power	21
Building Sites	4
Food Premises	
Visits - See later section	
Noise Abatement Act	
Noise Observations	45
Nuisances Investigated	26
Pet Animals Act Inspections	16
Animal Boarding Establishments Act	6
Riding Establishments Act	2
Miscellaneous Visits	375
Interviews	327

## DEFECTS REMEDIED AND SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT

The defects and nuisances remedied or abated were 387, and one hundred and forty six preliminary and twenty five statutory notices were served in connection therewith.

In addition to these notices, the abatement of insanitary conditions is effected by an interview with those directly concerned.

The following summary gives particulars of work carried out as a result of inspections:-

### GENERAL

Roofs renewed or repaired	42
Chimney stacks rebuilt or repaired	5
Rainwater gutters/pipes renewed or repaired	27
External walls rebuilt or repaired	14
Wall or ceiling plaster renewed or repaired	37
Floors renewed or repaired	15
Windows or doors renewed or repaired	36
Fireplaces renewed or repaired	2
Stairs renewed or repaired	2
Sub-floor ventilation provided	5
Dampness abated	47
Ventilation provided or improved	4
Yards and passages paved or repaired	2
Accumulations removed	7
Repairs to water supplies	2
Sinks and basins provided	6
Drains provided or repaired	2
Inspection chambers provided or repaired	4
W.C.'s repaired	20
Gullies provided or repaired	3
Drains and cesspools cleansed	12
Dirty premises cleansed	3
Premises disinfested	2
Premises rat-proofed	11
Dangerous & dilapidated structures dealt with	2
Overcrowding abated	2
Smoke nuisance abated	6
Noise nuisance abated	3
Other nuisances abated	3
Miscellaneous	9

# FOOD REGULATIONS

Rooms cleansed	12
Equipment cleansed	4
Food and equipment washing facilities improved	7
Staff washing facilities improved	4
Food storage improved	14
Food display improved	6
Other matters remedied	5

## HOUSING

### HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

#### A. Houses Demolished

In clearance areas:-

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year <u>Persons</u>	<u>Families</u>
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	—	—	—
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangements, etc.	—	—	—
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act 1957	—	—	—

NOT in clearance areas:-

(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act 1957	4	—	—
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by Medical Officer of Health	—	—	—
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	—	—	—
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	—	—	—

#### B. Unfit Houses Closed

(8) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1), Housing Act 1957	15	24	12
(9) Under Sections 17(3) and 26, Housing Act 1957	—	—	—



C. Unfit Houses made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied

	<u>By Owner</u>	<u>By Local Authority</u>
(11) After informal action by local authority	146	-
(12) After formal notice under		
(a) Public Health Acts	21	-
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act 1957.	4	-

D. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act 1957)

Position at end of Year

	<u>Number of Houses</u>	<u>Number of separate Dwellings contained in column (1)</u>
	(1)	(2)
(14) Retained for temporary accommodation		
(a) Under Section 48	-	-
(b) Under Section 17 (2)	-	-
(c) Under Section 46	-	-
(15) Licenced for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53	-	-

E. Purchase of Houses by Agreement

	<u>Number of Houses</u>	<u>Number of occupants of houses in Column (1)</u>
	(1)	(2)
(16) Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Order, purchased in the Year	-	-



### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There are ninety-two caravans in the City stationed singly or in groups.

The corporation owns two sites, one at Drake's Drive, which holds thirty-eight caravans, and one at Cell Barnes Lane, which holds eight caravans.

### PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

This Act came into force on 1st April 1952, and the City Council adopted the recommendations of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals regarding conditions of licence.

Four licences were renewed during the year.

### ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

Three premises within the City are licenced under the above Act. Regular visits have been made and they are found to be well maintained.

### RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1964

One premises is licenced under the above Act and is found to be well conducted.

### HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Inspection of some of these premises has been carried out with a view to bringing them up to the Council's standards and the prevention of overcrowding.

Whenever fire hazards and the proper provision of fire escapes are involved the co-operation of the Hertfordshire Fire Brigade has been enlisted to give advice and help on these points.

## PEST CONTROL

### (a) Rats and Mice

Compared with the previous year there was a decrease in the number of premises treated for rat and mice infestations. Eradication of these vermin is carried out in accordance with Ministry of Agriculture recommendations. Warfarin is the poison mostly used although this is not always effective against mice, and other poisons or traps have to be used.

There are fifteen annual contracts in operation dealing with treatments in business premises, and thirty-one business premises were treated on casual contract.

### (b) Verulamium

The usual inspections were made of the islands on the lake and no infestation was evident.

### (c) Other Pests

Infestations of cockroaches, ants, earwigs etc. have been dealt with by the Rodent Operator. Complaints of this nature are becoming more common, and in some cases it is possible by the issue of insecticide for people to help themselves.

Two hundred and ninety six wasps nests were destroyed, considerably more than in the previous year. One hundred and fifty six pigeons were destroyed, again more than in the previous year. The number destroyed represents only a small proportion of the pigeon population, and this work is hindered by people who scare the birds away from traps, or even free them when caught.



## NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960

(a) A petition was received regarding noise nuisance, particularly in the late evenings, from the St. Albans Concrete Works.

Following meetings with representatives of the Company, various measures were adopted to lessen the nuisance to residents in the neighbourhood, but it is inevitable that from time to time problems of noise are bound to arise from work of this character.

(b) Complaint was received regarding annoyance at week ends caused by the noise of band practice at a private house, and intervention by the department brought about an improvement.

(c) Complaints were received from residents adjoining two industrial undertakings regarding noise from machinery. In one case the noise was from intake fans and the provision of a baffle wall reduced the noise to a tolerable level. In the other the noise was from a steam injector and again the provision of a baffle wall had the desired effect.

Complaints were also received regarding the testing of outboard motors in a water tank and this was resolved by confining these activities to reasonable hours.

## AIR POLLUTION

The two recording stations for measuring emissions of smoke and sulphur dioxide at Mandeville Clinic and the Housing Department continue to be operated. The results are included in the national survey conducted by the Ministry of Technology at Warren Springs, Stevenage.

I produce two graphs showing pollution trends since 1963 when recording commenced.

As can be seen there was a continuous decrease in smoke emissions from both stations and then a slight increase towards the end of the period shown.

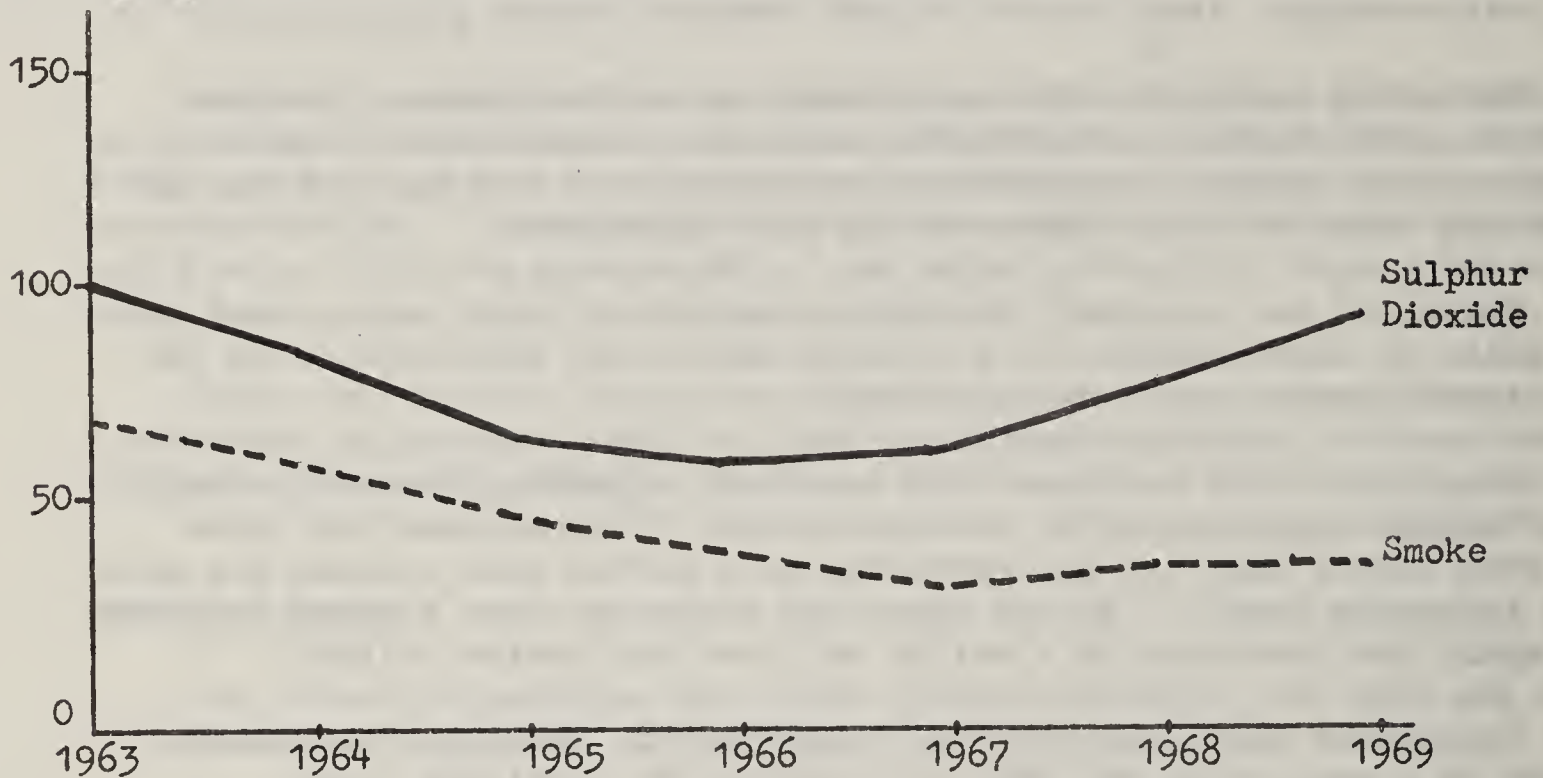
The decrease in smoke is generally due to:

(a) More efficient combustion processes in business and industrial premises, e.g. changeover from hand fed coal to oil fired boilers or mechanically stoked boilers in heating systems etc..

# AVERAGE DAILY AIR POLLUTION

## MANDEVILLE CLINIC

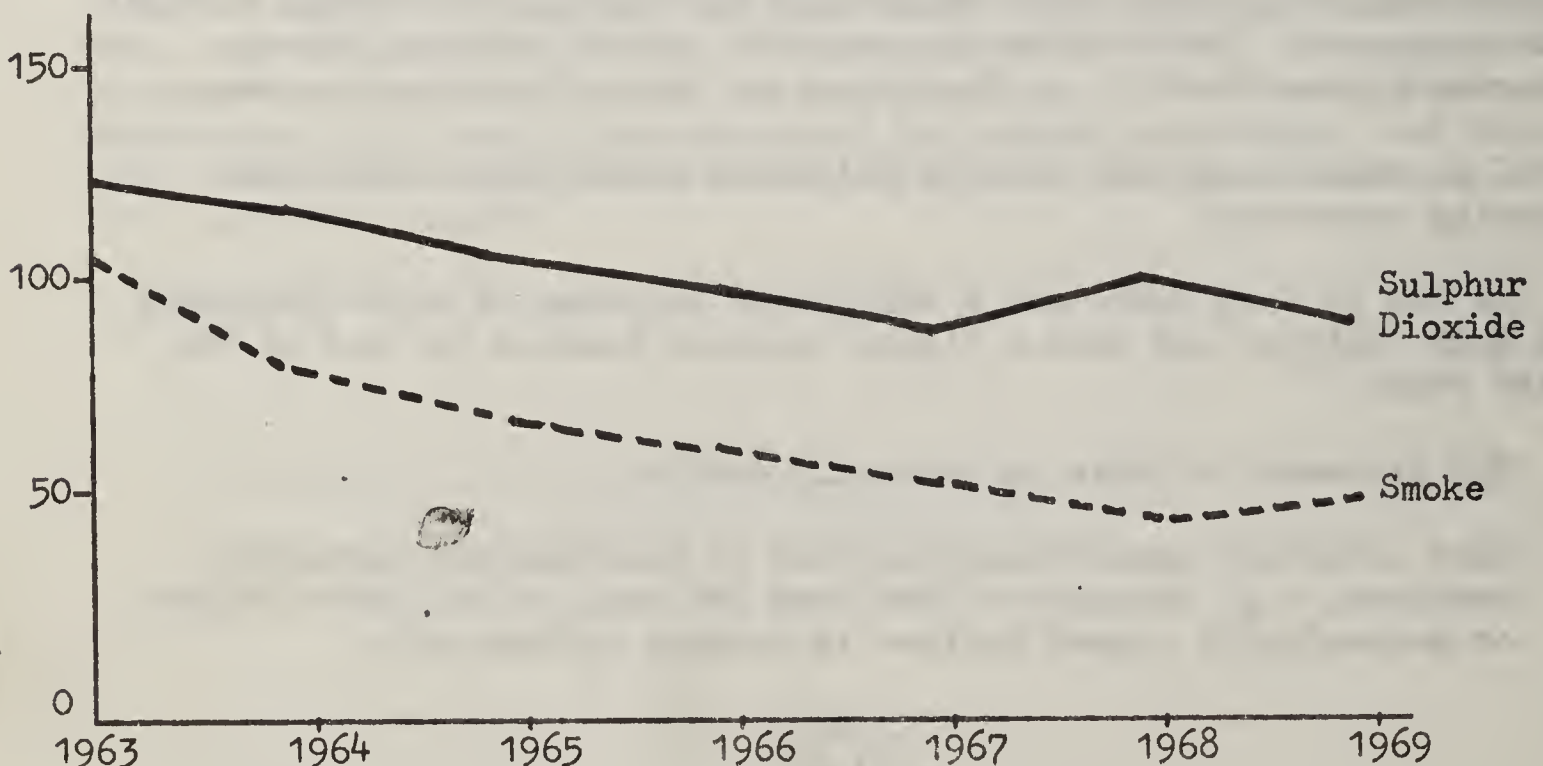
Micrograms  
Per cu. m.



# AVERAGE DAILY AIR POLLUTION

## HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Micrograms  
Per cu. m.





(b) The greater use of smokeless fuels, particularly gas in domestic heating. Central heating again dispenses with the use of a coal fire, and electric storage heaters, oil fired and gas fired boilers all help to reduce smoke emissions. At present the conversion to the use of smokeless fuel is on a voluntary basis, but the introduction of smoke control areas would accelerate the process.

The upward trend in the amount of Sulphur Dioxide recorded is not only of local concern but is receiving the attention of the Ministry, as the general decrease has not continued in the South of England and foreign countries are experiencing similar trends.

The dispersal of smoke and Sulphur Dioxide is very much influenced by weather conditions such as fog or absence of winds, and it is suggested that some increases in Sulphur Dioxide recordings can be attributed to differing weather conditions.

The usual complaints have been received regarding smoke from bonfires. In the case of garden bonfires a word of warning and advice on composting has usually resulted in an improvement in the situation. When the burning of trade waste has been the cause for complaint warnings have been given and extra collections of waste arranged.

Recommendations have been made regarding heights of chimneys for industrial establishments, the appropriate memoranda on chimney heights issued by the Ministry of Housing & Local Government being used.

### SWIMMING BATHS

Water at the Corporation Swimming Baths in Cottonmill Lane is obtained from the main supply of the Colne Valley Water Company.

Regular inspections of the Bath have been carried out and sixteen samples, eight from the shallow (inlet) and eight from the deep (outlet) end were taken covering the period May to September, and all proved to be satisfactory. Satisfactory reports were also received on samples of water submitted periodically from the Verulamium Paddling Pool.

In addition, samples were taken during the same period from the pools at St. Albans School, St. Albans High School, and Birklands School. This work is advisory and is done in co-operation with the school authorities.

### WATER SUPPLIES

The whole of the City area is served from public water mains direct to the houses with the exception of a very small number of houses in proposed Clearance Areas, where the supply is by means of stand-pipes.

Quarterly samples of water from the mains supply of the Colne Valley Water Company have been submitted to the Public Analyst for bacteriological examination, and all the samples were very satisfactory.

### SEWERAGE

With the exception of a few houses connected to cess-pools, all properties are on main drainage, the whole of the City being within the area of the West Herts Main Drainage Authority.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### Premises

The following table shows the visits paid to food premises during the year:-

Slaughterhouses	68
Butchers' Shops and Stalls	39
Fishmongers	9
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	10
Grocers	66
Fried Fish Shops	8
Other Food Shops	14
Bakehouses	10
Licenced Premises	32
Restaurants, Dining Rooms and Kitchens	90
Factory Canteens	23
Mobile Canteens	10
School Canteens	10
Other Food Premises	21
Dairies and Milkshops	57
Ice Cream Premises	46
Water Cress Beds	9
Food Vehicles	11

As will be seen from the foregoing, regular inspections of food premises have been carried out throughout the year.

A list of food condemned at these and other premises is included in a later paragraph.

All food stalls on the Saturday market have been visited regularly, and the stallholders have co-operated well in the handling and displaying of foodstuffs.

### PRESERVED FOODS, ETC.

Fifty-one premises are registered for the preparation and manufacture of preserved food such as sausages, fish frying, ham cooking and meat pickling.



## FOOD COMPLAINTS

Sixty-four complaints received regarding food and food containers included the following:-

Insects were found in three tins of imported fruit.

Four complaints referred to discolouration of the contents of tins of meat and of fruit.

Three complaints alleged sour cream and four related to mouldy pies - all occasioned by atmospheric conditions.

A complaint that a loaf of bread contained a small piece of glass was considered by the Enforcement sub-Committee. Investigation showed that an electric light tube had shattered at the bakery. Production was immediately stopped and the dough for four hundred loaves was destroyed.

A cigarette end was found in a "Floral Round". The Public Analyst having examined the bun was of the opinion that the cigarette had been pushed into the cream after baking. The Committee decided therefore not to institute legal proceedings.

A complaint was received that a "Cornish Wafer" contained a piece of glass but the department was informed that the complainant was pursuing the matter direct with the manufacturers.

Two complaints were received on the same day of a cockroach adhering to the bottoms of two wrapped sliced loaves. Although purchased from different shops the loaves had come from the same bakery. Legal proceedings were instituted against the bakery company who pleaded "Guilty" and were fined £50.

Two bottles of milk from different dairies contained larvae of the fruit fly (*Drosophila Buskii*) which frequently lays its eggs in the dried milk solids in empty milk bottles.

A packet of imported frozen cod fillets contained a piece of metal (aluminium) which appeared to be from a container used for transporting fish from the docks to the fish factory in Scandinavia.

Complaint was received that fresh fish contained a worm. Certain species of fish are the natural habitat for this worm - *Filaria Bicolor* - which is harmless to human beings.



### MEAT INSPECTION

Sixty-five visits have been made to Sandridge Slaughterhouse in co-operation with St. Albans Rural District Council, and the following have been examined, viz:-

Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
93	81	88	760

### HEALTH EDUCATION

Talks on various aspects of the work of the Department have again been given during the year. Senior classes of two girls schools received lectures on food hygiene. These lectures are to be repeated yearly as they are considered of great value to girls who may be entering the food trade.

Lectures were also given to nursery nurse students and home helps as part of their training.

Another successful course on food hygiene was held in conjunction with the Health Department of St. Albans Rural District Council, and the College of Further Education. Ten students were successful in gaining the Certificate of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene which were presented by his worship the Mayor.

## ICE CREAM

### (a) Premises

Premises (including seven registered during the year) for the sale of ice cream under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 are as follows:-

Manufacture and sale of ice cream	2
Sale of ice cream	183

### (b) Bacteriological Examination

The results of the bacteriological examination of ice cream during the year were satisfactory.

Of the thirty-three samples examined, twenty-seven were placed in Grade 1, two in Grade 2 and four in Grade 3.

### (c) Chemical Examination

Two samples of ice cream were submitted for chemical analysis and the Public Analyst reported that they were of good quality and complied with the requirements of the Food Standards (Ice Cream) (Amendment) Order 1953.

## MILK AND DAIRIES

### Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

Number of premises registered as Dairies at 31.12.69	1
Number of persons registered as Distributors at 31.12.69	50

### Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1963

Number of persons holding at 31.12.69:-

Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Ultra Heat Treated"	6
Dealers' (Pasteuriser's) Licences	1
Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	37
Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Sterilised"	31

The following table shows the results of the bacteriological examination of "Designated" milk during 1969. In the course of these examinations "Untreated" milks are submitted to the Methylene Blue Test, and "Pasteurised" milks to the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests.

The figures in brackets refer to the corresponding results in 1968.

Designation	No. of Samples	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Untreated	12 (21)	12 (19)	- (2)		
Channel Island South Devon (Pasteurised)	22 (24)	22 (24)	- (-)	22 (24)	- (-)
Pasteurised	44 (49)	44 (48)	- (1)	44 (49)	- (-)
Totals	78 (94)	78 (91)	- (3)	66 (73)	- (-)



## FOOD AND DRUGS

The Public Analyst (Mr. J.D. Curzon, B.Sc., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.) reports on samples submitted during the year, as follows:-

"The number of samples examined under the Food and Drugs Act for the year ending 31st December amounted to 143, of which 65 were Formal and 78 Informal. There were 65 Formal samples of Milk.

The following table shows the average composition of the milk samples as compared with those submitted during the previous twelve months.

	January 1968 to <u>December 1968</u>	January 1969 to <u>December 1969</u>
Fat ... ..	4.03%	3.78%
Solids-non-fat ... ..	8.99%	8.86%

It will be seen from the above table that there has been a decrease in both the average fat content and the solids-non-fat content as compared with the previous year. This decrease is attributable to the difference in the proportion of the number of samples of Channel Islands type milk compared with the number of samples of ordinary milk examined during the two years cited.

All the samples of milk were up to standard and complied with the Sale of Milk Regulations in respect of their general composition and were free from preservatives.

A miscellaneous selection of samples of various kinds has been examined during the year and these can most conveniently be divided into three categories:-

Foodstuffs  
Spices  
Drugs.

### Foodstuffs

Gravy Mix  
Sultana Sponge Pudding  
Dairy Cream  
Evaporated Milk  
Raspberry Jam  
Toasty Grills  
Limeade and Lager  
Cider Cup

Canned Tomatoes  
Apple Dumpling  
Full Cream Evaporated Milk  
Pease Pudding  
Stewed Apple  
Low Fat Yoghourt  
Ginger Beer Shandy  
Crab Paste

Dressed Crab  
 Butter Sponge Pudding  
 Chunky Chicken  
 Diabetic Orange Squash  
 Lemon Squash  
 Cooking Oil (Groundnut)  
 Apricot Jam  
 Marmalade  
 Frankfurters  
 Pork and Ham Sausages  
 Pork Sausage Meat  
 Sausage Rolls  
 Mincemeat  
 Nutbrawn  
 Non-fat Milk Powder  
 Beef Sandwich (slimming)  
 Baking Yeast  
 Lamb Curry  
 Sage and Onion Stuffing  
 Marzipan

Butter  
 Minced Beef  
 Orange Squash  
 Lime Juice Cordial  
 Dubonnet  
 Vinegar (Malt)  
 Apricot Jam (fresh fruit)  
 Marmalade (Seville Orange fresh fruit)  
 Pork Sausages  
 Beef Sausage Meat  
 Popular Sausage  
 Strawberry Conserve  
 Honey, various  
 Nutmeat  
 Baked Beans (slimming)  
 Drinking Chocolate (slimming)  
 Ground Rice  
 "Wish" Dessert  
 Shredded Suet  
 Blackcurrant Health Drinks

The above samples of foodstuffs were all satisfactory.

Two samples of Pork Sausages, one sample of Pork and Ham Sausage, one sample of Pork Sausage Meat and one sample of Beef Sausage Meat were submitted to me for examination during the year and I set out below the average meat content of these samples:-

Beef	...	...	65%
Pork	...	...	76%

The meat content of these sausages comply with the minimum requirements of the Sausage and Other Meat Products Regulations 1967 which came into force at the beginning of June in the year under review. The amount of Sulphur Dioxide found in these Sausages was within the permitted limit.

#### Spices and Herbs

Dried Mint	Ground Nutmeg	Curry Powder
Ground Cinnamon	Ground Ginger	

These were all of good quality and no complaint could be made as to their composition.

#### Drugs

Camphorated Oil	Gee's Linctus	Eucalyptus Oil
Friar's Balsam	Witch Hazel	Calamine Lotion
Tincture of Iodine		Castor Oil



All the samples of Drugs submitted to me for examination were of good quality and complied with the requirements of the British Pharmacopoeia where applicable.

#### TOWN SUPPLY WATER

I have made, as usual, during the twelve months under review, a quarterly examination of the St. Albans water supply, and am pleased to be able to report that it continues to possess a high degree of bacteriological purity and is, in every way, suitable to be used both for drinking and other general domestic purposes.

- - - -

Your Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. R.E.C. Goddard, also submitted to me during the year under review, a special sample and I will now refer to this below.

A portion of a white loaf was submitted which I found contained a piece of glass. Having had an opportunity of inspecting similar pieces provided by the bakery concerned, I was of the opinion that the glass was derived from a broken fluorescent tube. The glass was present in the loaf when baked.

- - - -

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking your Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. R.E.C. Goddard, F.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H., his Deputy, Mr. L.A. Croft, and their colleagues in the Public Health Department for the valuable co-operation I have received from them."

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## INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Two hundred and nineteen visits were made for the inspection of meat and other foods, and the following list shows the food condemned.

Beef	77 lbs.
Baking Powder	16 lbs.
Pigs Kidneys	14 lbs.
Butter	18 lbs.
Bacon	479 lbs.
Ham	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Dried Milk	30 lbs.
Cheese	31 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Rice	60 lbs.
Cereals	91 lbs.
Pork Luncheon Meat	35 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Soya Flour	56 lbs.
Tongue	19 lbs.
Wet Fish	225 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Dried Fruit	180 lbs.
Jelly Crystals	14 lbs.
Salt	22 lbs.
Sugar	17 lbs.
Miscellaneous	19 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Tinned Meats	791 tins
Tinned Tomatoes	766 tins
Tinned Vegetables	1214 tins
Tinned Fish	230 tins
Tinned Fruit	1895 tins
Tinned Milk & Cream	112 tins
Rice	145 tins
Fruit Juice	392 tins
Miscellaneous Tins	281 tins
Raisins	6 pkts
Beetroot	12 jars

### Frozen Foods

Vegetables	82 pkts
Meat	66 pkts
Fish	77 pkts
Orange Juice	3 tins

A P P E N D I X

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors):-

Premises	Number on Register	N u m b e r o f		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	18	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not inclu- ded in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	272	21	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	9	1	-	-
Total	299	23	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	5	5	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6	6	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	13	13	-	-	-



PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork ( Section 133 )

Nature of Work	Number of outworkers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	Number of cases of default in sending lists of the Council	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists
Making etc. Wearing) Cleaning apparel) and Washing	10	-	-
Other classes of work	4	-	-
Total	14	-	-



